Updates for Spring 2021: COVID-19 Training - Working Safely at Columbia University

- **COVID-19 Resource Guide for the Columbia Community**: The University’s response to the pandemic adjusts to changing conditions. Critical real-time updates are posted on the [COVID-19 Resource Guide for the Columbia Community](#). Please check it regularly for the most current information and additional details.

- **COVID-19 Vaccine**: After you are vaccinated, you must continue to follow required health and safety protocols. COVID-19 vaccine availability and/or receipt of a vaccine will not mean an early end to the Enhanced Health and Safety Policy requirements. Please refer to the COVID-19 website for regular updates and information: [COVID-19 Vaccination Information](#).

- **Get Tested**: Faculty, staff and students who are eligible to return to campus are required to obtain an initial “Gateway” COVID-19 PCR diagnostic test and participate in ongoing surveillance testing. A COVID-19 PCR gateway test is required by Jan. 25 for individuals returning to campus in January, and prior to return thereafter, regardless of whether gateway testing was completed in summer or fall 2020 or whether they have been accessing campus previously. Campus access will be allowed while awaiting results of the gateway test only until January 25. Gateway testing must be completed through a University testing site; outside tests will not qualify for access to campus. Please refer to [COVID-19 Testing Program](#) for additional detail.

- **Physical Distancing and Contact Tracing**: When contact tracing is initiated for someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, you will be deemed a close contact if you have been:
  - Within 6 feet for over 10 minutes in a single instance or
  - Within 6 feet for a cumulative time of 15 minutes or more within a 24 hour period
  - You will then be notified and given instructions on quarantine (for up 10 days) and testing.

  **Note**: If there is a positive case of COVID-19, if you have maintained physical distance and wearing a face covering from that person, you will not be required to quarantine. For additional details, refer to [Columbia Contact Tracing Program](#).

- **Actions to Avoid, throughout the Workday**: Through Columbia’s contact tracing program and other observations on campus, the University has identified common situations with a high risk for virus transmission. Some include:
  - Not staying home if you have symptoms or a known exposure
  - Failure to observe appropriate physical distancing (at least 6 feet) in breakrooms or lunchrooms (with removal of face coverings/masks for eating/drinking)
  - Situating desks, chairs or workstations without observing required physical distancing (at least 6 feet) and lack of consistent and appropriate wearing of face covering/masking
  - Failure to maintain physical distance and use of face coverings outdoors

- **Return to Campus after COVID-19 Symptoms or Positive Test**: For additional details, refer to the [ReopenCU COVID-19 Symptom Self-check App – Red Screen Policy](#).

- **Considerations for Laboratories**: Remain “Ramp-Down” Ready
  - Laboratories must be prepared in the event that there is a resurgence of active cases.
  - Have a plan in place to accomplish this safely and quickly.

- **Where to Go with a Concern and Additional Resources**: For general questions or comments about University COVID-19 policies, and to receive guidance on testing, contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine, email [covidresource@columbia.edu](mailto:covidresource@columbia.edu). For additional resources, please refer to: [Where to With a Concern](#).

- **Key Actions to Stop the Spread of COVID-19**:
  - Stay home if you are sick or think you may be sick, or if you know that you have been exposed to COVID-19
  - Wear a face covering at all times on campus, including while outdoors
  - Make smart choices when commuting
  - Follow the required protocols when taking breaks or eating
  - Maintain physical distance both indoors and outdoors
  - Socialize safely, but not while you eat
  - Cooperate with Contact Tracing
  - Get tested when asked for ongoing surveillance
  - Adhere to local travel restrictions